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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03
IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /080 W
----------111457Z 005297 /65
R 111328Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 138
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1086

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JO, EG
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF KING HUSSEIN'S UPCOMING VISIT TO CAIRO

REF: CAIRO 472

1. LOCAL PRESS IS GIVING CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY TO KING HUSSEIN'S PLANNED VISIT TO CAIRO JANUARY 13. EGYPTIAN MENA QUOTED AS STATING THAT VISIT IS IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION FROM PRES SADAT EXTENDKED DURING PHONE CONVERSATION THREE DAYS AGO.

2. PRESS STORIES STATE THAT TALKS IN ASWAN WILL FOCUS ON COORDINATING ARAB POSITIONS PRIOR TO GENEVA CONFERENCE, REPLEIES THAT SADAT HAS RECEIVED FROM THE TWO SUPERPOWERS REGARDING THE GENEVA TALKS, AND VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN RELATIONSAND OF A PALESTINIAN STATE. LATER ITEM COUCHED IN CONTEXT OF SADAT'S RECENT WASHINGTON POST INTERVIEW ABOUT LINKS BETWEEN
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JORDAN AND ANY FUTURE PALESTINE STATE. AT SAME TIME, JORDANIAN PRESS HIGHLIGHTS KING HUSSEIN'S RECENT INTERVIEW WITH KUWAIT MAZAZINE THAT JORDAN STILL HONORS RABAT SUMMIT DECISION RE PLO RESPONSIBILITY FOR PALESTINIAN MATTERS IN ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. DELIBERATIONS WILL ALSO TOUCH ON EGYPTIAN-JORDANIAN RELATIONS " IN LIGHT OF THE STEPS TOWARD UNITY BEING

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ADOPTED" IN ARAB WORLD. JORDAN'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT QUOTED AS STATING EXPLICITYLY THAT "KING'S VISIT COMES IN THE WAKE OF THE SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN MOVE TO FORM A JOING POLITICAL COMMITTEE . . . ."

3. EDITORIALS WAX ELOQUENT ON SIGNIFICANCE OF MEETING IN CONTEXT OF DEVELOPING ARAB RELATIONS. PRIMACY OF BAGHDAD AND ISOLATION OF DAMASCUS IN FIFTIES AND SIXTIES IS CONTRASTED EDITORIALLY WITH "THE EMERGING CAIRO-DAMASCUS-AMMAN AXIS, THE FULL DIMENSIONS OF WHICH WILL BECOME APPARENT FOLLOWING HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO CAIRO." AD-DUSTOUR EDITORIAL PAYS COMPLIMENTS TO MATURE BEHAVIOR OF DAMASCUS IN THIS ENTENTE: "SYRIA'S RESTORATION OF RELATIONS WITH EGYPT HAS NEVER BEEN UNDERTAKEN AT THE EXPENSE OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH AMMAN." DAMASCUS IS CHARACTERIZED AS HAVING BEEN THE NATURAL MEDIATOR IN THE EGYPTIAN-JORDANIAN DIALOGUE. ASH-SHA'AB EDITORIAL CHARACTERIZES CAIRO MEETING AS LOGICAL EXTENSION OF CAIRO AND RIYADH SUMMITS,PARTICULARLY IN CONTEXT OF JORDAN'S AND EGYPT'S SPECIAL ROLES IN ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT AS "TWO PRINCIPAL WINGS OF THE ARAB CONFRONTATION OF THE ZIONIST ENEMY."

4. COMMENT: PRESS SLANT IS OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO OVERCOME IMPRESSION OF SOME THAT JORDAN SLIPPING IN IMPORTANCE TO DIPLOMACY OF MIDDLE EAST AS REGION ENTERS IMPORTANT NEW YEAR OF ARAB PEACE OFFENSIVE. SOPHISTICATED OBSERVERS LOCALLY WILL ALSO SEE KING'S VISIT TO CAIRO CONFIDENTIAL

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AS ATTEMPT TO BRING MORE BALANCE INTO JORDAN'S SYRIA RELATIONSHIP -- AN ATTEMPT MANY WILL WELCOME.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVITATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977AMMAN01086
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
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Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770165/aaaaceit.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 472
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3629310
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDANIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF KING HUSSEIN\'S UPCOMING VISIT TO CAIRO
TAGS: PFOR, JO, EG, (HUSSEIN), (SADAT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/82e4b6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009